

VI.—*Extracts from the Journal of Lieut. MARKHAM KITTOE, submitted to the Asiatic Society at the meeting of the 6th Oct. 1836.—Ruins and Pillar at Jájipur.*

Sunday the 27th Nov.—Halt to-day.

Having made previous arrangements for a visit to *Jájipur*, I started at 4 A. M. in company with about a hundred men of the corps proceeding to pay their devotions at the famous *tirath* or *khetr* resting (as the Hindus assert) on the navel of the great *Gaya Asura*. At this place all good Hindus make offerings to their deceased relatives termed "*pinda pharna*:" a notice of the ceremonies attending which is to be found in STIRLING'S account of *Orissa*. I had no leisure to make many inquiries or to visit every object worthy of notice, yet I still saw a great deal which duly repaid me for my long ride of six miles there and six back again with a burning sun over my head.

The first place I visited was the mosque in the outskirts of the town, where there formerly stood the palace of the *Súbeh-dars* of the province MUHAMMAD TAKI' KHA'N, ABU NASAR KHA'N and others. The mosque is rather a pretty object but of rough workmanship.

Over the centre archway is an inscription of five verses placed in five "howdues" or compartments in the style of the reign in which the mosque was built, the verses run thus:

ظل ظلیل رایت اورنگ زیب شاه اوصاف خلق ورتبه نواب مستطاب
گسترده باد تاکه زانجم نشان بود بیش ازتوان و قدرت نطق و بیان بود
در شهر جاجپور بنا کرد مسجدی
کین نهه نملک بگنید سقفش نهان بود
تسبیح قدسیان شنوی اندرو اگر مسجد چو شد زمان ابونصرخان بنا
یکشب ترا مقام درین آستان بود تاریخ او زمان ابونصرخان بود

The English of which is nearly as follows:

1

"May the Shadow of the insignia of the Emperor AURANGZEB
Be spread as long as the stars cast their light (shine.)

2

The praises and good qualities of the excellent Nawáb
Are greater than in the power of the poet to describe.

3

In the town of *Jájipur* he laid the foundations of a mosque
Beneath the domes of which the nine heavens are hidden.

4

Oh would you hear the angels recite the prayers
You must pass one night therein.

5

As the mosque was made in the time of A'BU NASSAR KHA'N
So its date is "the time of the Nawáb A'BU NASSAR KHA'N."

The year of the Hegira 1093 A. D. 1686.

By this inscription it would appear that the mosque was built in A. D. 1686 by the Nawáb ABU NASSAR KHA'N and not MUHAMMAD TAKI' KHÁN as stated by Mr. STIRLING.

At a short distance from the mosque is a dargáh or shrine of a Mussulman saint who destroyed a famous temple and converted the terrace, on which it stood, into an open mosque and burial-place for himself and family. Beneath the terrace are three idols of enormous dimensions and exquisite sculpture, representing Indráni, Varáha and Káli: the latter figure is the most worthy of notice though a more hideous object could not well be imagined,—it resembles (as it were) a living skeleton of an old fury. Mr. STIRLING gives a good account of these fine specimens of ancient Hindu sculpture; it is much to be regretted that these idols have so suffered from the mason's chisel, in late years employed by an European officer to detach "relics!" A part of the *mund-málá* of Káli and a hand of Indráni have been thus lost. It is also a great pity that these curiosities are not removed to the museum in Calcutta (which could easily be done in the rainy season) and thereby placed out of the reach of such would-be-antiquarian relic hunters.

The following are the dimensions of the figures.

KA'LI', base 6 feet $0\frac{1}{2}$ inch; height 9 feet; thickness at the base 1 foot 4 inches.

INDRA'NI', height 8 feet 10 inches; breadth at the base 5 feet 9 inches; thickness ditto 3 feet $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

VARÁHA, height 9 feet 10 inches; breadth at the base 5 feet 11 inches; thickness ditto 3 feet $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

I regretted my inability (for want of time) to make drawings of the three figures.

Having through the attention and exceeding politeness of the Mun-sif ABDUL AHID (who resides near the mosque) procured guides to shew me all that is to be seen in and near *Jajipur*, I visited the different temples, none of which are worthy of notice or at all ancient, though they occupy the places of those destroyed by the Muhammadan conquerors. About a mile and a half from the mosque behind the town, I was shewn a very elegant pillar of which the accompanying is a sketch; it is



